

# Procedure Bylaw Review

CL-01-24

To : Council September 17,2024

# SD-17-23

- Direct the City Clerk or designate to include a public engagement component to the Procedure By-law Review, including but not limited to a Featured Project on GetInvolvedBurlington, related to sections pertaining to the public
- The Clerk had a survey on the GetInvolvedBurlington website, but failed to include the results of the survey in the Procedure Bylaw Review.

# Staff Ignores Problems

- The survey indicated that one of the main reasons for not attending was due to the meeting time. Many comments also indicated that attending daytime meetings is challenging due to work commitments.
- The change to meeting times was done at the request of Marianne at a December 2022 committee meeting. There was no public notice or consultation on the change to 9:30 Starts for meetings.
- Staff should have had taken this into account for the 2024 Meeting Calendar. Instead it might make the 2025 Meeting Calendar if staff get around to it.

# Delegations

- Another issue raised in the Survey was having all the Delegations at the start of a meeting.
- With the CoW now being scheduled for 2 days how likely is a Council Member to actually remember a delegation from Monday at 10:00 am when the discussion is happening on Tuesday at 4:30 PM?
- That illustrates another problem: Council needs to stick to their scheduled break times. That's 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch and 4:00 to 6:30 for supper.

# My Favourite Comment

- “You need to take time off work to attend this limits public participation to the retired and the privileged.”
- How does that square with the Engagement Charter. Does Council only want to engage with the privileged.
- I am extremely concerned that on P2P Council only wants to engage with friendly delegates. Everyone else only gets to submit written comments. This is not what the Terms of Reference for P2P says.

# Complete Report

- The Memo from Staff that is included as Read and File item 20.3 (not 20.4 as indicated) Shows that the staff did an incomplete job on the report.
- I would think a report that lands a year late would actually deal with all the issues it was supposed to.
- Instead the staff is saying they need to look further into the time for meetings. Doesn't look like they did anything with

# Closed Meeting Protocol

- This Protocol is intended to support and enhance the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001 and Councils Procedure By-law, as amended from time to time, and is not intended to be separately enforceable.
- It appears that Staff don't know the difference between a Protocol and a Bylaw.

# Defer to November

- At the CoW the lawyer recommended delaying the Report to the November Cycle as some councillors and the CAO are on a Junket to Japan in October.
- He then said it would be better to defer till today.
- Well I've seen Bylaw and it doesn't fix the problems. Your staff doesn't have time between committee and Council to fix major problems when council is only 5 working days after Committee.
- This should be deferred to November.



# From the Ombudsman

- I urge the City to determine a set of rules that it wishes to live by, and then commit itself to living within them. The Procedure By-Law can be an important part of building transparency and accountability in the City's decision-making, which are principles specifically described in s. 270(1)5 of the Municipal Act. 2001.
- You need to take more time than this rush job allows to get it right.
- You should have the second workshop session on the Procedure Bylaw and you also need to reschedule the Workshop on Chairing meetings/Roberts rules.

# Engaged Citizens

- When your called for jury duty and your name is drawn by lot
  - When you vote in an election or freely voice your thought
  - Don't take these rights for granted for dearly they were bought
  - Remember Thomas Muir of Huntershill.
- 
- Thomas Muir of Huntershill by Dick Gaughan.
- 
- Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty. - various philosophers.